

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-14 EB-07 DLOS-09
OES-07 /111 W
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R 011917Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4169
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
HQ USSOUTHCOM SCJ2

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 2567

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR, UY
SUBJ: VISIT OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT TO URUGUAY

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT VIDELA OF ARGENTINA MADE A 48 HOUR VISIT TO URUGUAY JUNE 28-30. THE VISIT WAS CAPPED WITH THE ISSUANCE OF A COMMUNIQUE WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE UN AND OAS, REJECTED INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATES, AND CONDEMNED VIOLENCE, TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION AS ASSAULTS ON THE RIGHTS OF MAN. IN OTHER OPPORTUNITIES PRESIDENT VIDELA SPOKE OF HIS STRONG BELIEF IN THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, BUT REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT DEMOCRACY REQUIRES A FIRM FOUNDATION AND THAT THE GOA HAS NO TIMETABLE FOR ITS INSTALLATION. THREE PRIVATE MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH PRESIDENT MENDEZ, BUT DETAILS OF THE CONTENT OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS WERE NOT MADE PUBLIC.
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE FORTY-EIGHT HOUR VISIT OF PRESIDENT VIDELA JUNE 28-30 CUMINATED WITH THE ISSUANCE OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF APPROXIMATELY 2,000 WORDS CONCERNING SUCH MATTERS AS RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW, SUPPORT OF THE UN AND OAS, INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SUBVERSION, THE MALVINES (FALKLAND) ISLANDS, LAFTA, SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER

RIGHTS AND EXPLOITATION AND NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BI-NATIONAL ENTERPRISES. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF CERTAIN PARAGRAPHS OF THE DECLARATION FOLLOW:

A. (BOTH GOVERNMENTS) "RENEW THEIR UNALTERABLE RESPECT AND ADHESION TO THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES WHICH GUIDE RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH GUARANTEE JURIDICAL EQUALITY, SOVEREIGN SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES, NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AND THE NON-RECOGNITION OF TERRITORIAL CONQUESTS ACQUIRED THROUGH THE USE OF FORCE, THE RENUNCIATION OF THE THREAT OR USE OF FORCE, AND THE FAITHFUL COMPLETION OF AGREEMENTS.

"BOTH GOVERNMENTS RATIFY THEIR COMPLETE ADHESION TO THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES WHICH ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND EXPRESS THEIR CONVICTION THAT THIS IS THE APPROPRIATE FORUM TO CONSOLIDATE THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY OF ALL MEMBER STATES THROUGH THE SOLUTION OF WORLD PROBLEMS, AND FUNDAMENTALLY THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTIONS WHICH FURTHER THE PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES MORE THAN THE INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS OF EACH STATE.

C. "THEY REITERATE THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES WHICH GUIDE THE ACTIONS OF THE OAS IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD PEACE, ASSURE JUSTICE AND PROMOTE COOPERATION; UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE PRINCIPLES STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSE OF SOVEREIGNTY, UNCLASSIFIED

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TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF MEMBER STATES.

D. "THEY ARE ALSO IN AGREEMENT WITH THE NECESSITY TO PROMOTE THE PROCESS OF REFORMING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM IN A WAY WHICH FAVORS ITS BEING ADEQUATE TO THE REALITIES OF THE CONTINENT AND THE PROMOTION OF NEW MECHANISMS OF EFFECTIVE REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THE AMERICAN STATES.

E. "THEY REAFFIRM THEIR RESOLUTE WILL TO OPPOSE WHATEVER MEDIUM OF OUTSIDE PRESSURE OR COERCION OF A POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC NATURE WHICH TENDS TO ALTER SOVEREIGN DECISIONS ON POLITICAL POSITIONS, OR RELATIVE TO THE FREE DISPOSITION OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES, OR TO FREE TRADE BETWEEN STATES.

F. "THEY NOTE THEIR FIRM DECISION TO REPULSE EACH AND EVERY MANIFESTATION OF VIOLENCE WHICH LEADS TO AGGRESSION OR THE THREAT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST THE ESSENTIAL RIGHTS OF HUMAN BEINGS AND WHICH DISTURBS PEACE AND NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

G. "REITERATING THEIR FULL ADHESION TO SUCH PRINCIPLES AND FUNDAMENTAL VALUES, THEY EXHORT THE WORLD COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH MUST WORK FOR THE

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SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-14 EB-07 DLOS-09
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MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, TO ADOPT WITH NECESSARY
URGENCY, APPROPRIATE AND EFFICIENT MEANS TO PREVENT AND
PENALIZE TERRORISM. THEY PERSIST IN THEIR CONVICTION
THAT THE EFFORTS AND SACRIFICES OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN A
FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSION, WHICH IS AN AGGRESSION AGAINST
THE ETHICAL AND ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH IS FOUNDED
THEIR COMMON SYSTEM OF LIFE, AND WHICH ATTACKS THEIR
INALIENABLE RIGHTS, WILL PERMIT THE DEFINITIVE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A STATE OF PEACE AND LIBERTY CAPABLE OF STIMULATING THE
MORAL STRENGTHENING OF THEIR PEOPLE AND TO ASSURE IN A
VERY SHORT TIME THE PROVISION OF WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE
TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

H. "THEY CONFIRM THEIR UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT OF EFFORTS
WHICH FAVOR THE SOLUTION OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS CREATED BY
THE CONTINUANCE OF THE LAST VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM AND
THEY RATIFY THEIR GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUANCE OF
COLONIAL SITUATIONS IN AMERICA WHICH AFFECT THE MAINTENCE
OF PEACE AND SECURITY NECESSARY FOR HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS."
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3. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CALLED FOR THE QUICK CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MALVINAS (FALKLAND) ISLANDS WITH RECOGNITION OF ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY, A REVITALIZATION OF LAFTA, AND A STRENGTHENING OF SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE CUENCA DEL PLATA. THEY ALSO AGREED ON THE NECESSITY FOR RATIONAL USE OF THE AREA'S RIVERS WITHOUT PREJUDICING ANY STATE, COOPERATION IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND ON THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PEACEFUL USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

4. PREVIOUS TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, VIDELA STRESSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HIS STRONG PREFERENCE FOR A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND A SOCIETY BASED ON LAW. IN A VISIT TO LAFTA HE NOTED THAT INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN MATERIAL WELL-BEING, BUT ADDED THAT ECONOMICALLY IMPOTENT SOCIETIES ARE FERTILE BREEDING GROUNDS FOR EXTREMISM. HOWEVER, IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT VIDELA MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS NO FIXED TIMETABLE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN ARGENTINA. HE SAID THAT IN ARGENTINA ELECTIONS OF ANY TYPE WERE A LONG WAY OFF, BUT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A DEMOCRACY.

5. ALSO IN THE FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE, VIDELA WAS ASKED HIS OPINION ON U.S. POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA AND ARGENTINA. DECLINING TO ANSWER THE QUESTION IN THE FORM IT WAS PUT, VIDELA SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD A RIGHT TO ITS CHOSEN GOVERNMENT AND TO THE POLICIES THAT GOVERNMENT WISHES TO PURSUE. ARGENTINA, HE ADDED, RECOGNIZES ONLY ITS OWN PEOPLE AS ITS JUDGE. "EACH TIME THAT SOME OUTSIDER TRIED TO JUDGE OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ARGENTINA, WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL DUE RESPECT, BUT WITH COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY, RE-AFFIRMED ITS PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND NON-INTERVENTION. BECAUSE IT IS A FREE COUNTRY, IT DOES NOT, AND WILL NOT, ACCEPT OUTSIDE INFLUENCES ATTEMPTING TO MEDDLE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

6. THE TWO-DAY VISIT, MARKED BY VERY TIGHT SECURITY TOGETHER WITH A HEAVY CEREMONIAL SCHEDULE, GAVE VIDELA HARDLY ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT PUBLIC EXPOSURE. NEVERTHELESS, TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE VARIOUS EVENTS PROVIDED AN IMAGE OF VIDELA AS UN HOMBRE SIMPATICO, A GOOD AN SIMPLE MAN, BUT ONE OF UNUSUAL INTELLIGENCE.

7. VIDELA MET PRIVATELY THREE TIMES WITH PRESIDENT MENDEZ, BUT DETAILS OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS WERE NOT REVEALED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770798/aaaadhim.tel
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1984901
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT TO URUGUAY
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR, UY, (VIDELA, JORGE RAFAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/60e27f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009